

SCPW



THE CONTROL SWITCH

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SUMMIT COMMUNITY POWER WORKS www.scpw.org



1 WELCOME!

Thank you for picking up this guide. You're already way ahead of your neighbors and friends☺

Our goal at Summit Community Power Works (www.scpw.org) is to help you:

- Save money
- Be more comfortable in your home
- Spend less time and personal energy on home maintenance
- Improve indoor air quality and the health of your home

This guide takes you through the Control Switch, the second of our four Switches. You can find the LED Switch, the Comfort Switch, and the Power Switch at SCPW.org. Each switch will help reduce your home's total energy use. For the best outcome, I'd recommend working through them in order, but this is your journey feel free to jump around!

2 LET'S START: HOW TO GAIN CONTROL

We're going to upgrade our thermostat(s) today. Why a learning thermostat?

- It does a ton of work for you!
 - Keeps you comfortable when you're home
 - Saves you money when you're away or sleeping
 - Learns your habits to optimize your furnace/AC performance
- Proven to save you at least 15% on your energy bills
- You can control it from your smart devices and the internet

I know, I know. A learning thermostat is more expensive than a programmable thermostat. I'm an energy professional, I've programmed a lot of programmable thermostats. I thought I did a great job in my own home. I was totally wrong. In the first year of using my Nest I saved almost \$200 and my family said the house was *warm*!

Why is this? a programmable thermostat is programmed to our ideals, **a learning thermostat learns...**

- I wake up later than I'd like to think
- I stay up later than I'd like to think
- My schedule changes

So what to buy? Both the ecobee and the Nest are great thermostats and almost universally the top two recommendations. They are also relatively easy to install and come with up utility rebates of up to \$100 at the time of publishing.

2.1 ECOBEE3

The ecobee3 is one of our two favorites and retails for \$247.99 (at the time of publishing). It is compatible with a number of smart home control systems.



2.2 NEST

The Nest Learning Thermostat is the second of our two favorites and retails for \$249.00 (at the time of publishing). It is also compatible with a number of smart home control systems.





3 TIME TO BUY

For you do-it yourselfers, here is what you do next.

First, check your compatibility:

- ecobee - <https://www.ecobee.com/compatibility/>
- Nest - <https://nest.com/widget/compatibility/>

Now, confirm your incentives.

- Nationally – check your natural gas provider first and then your electricity provider
- Live in Utah? – it's sixes ☺
 - Both the ecobee3 & the Nest Learning Thermostat qualify for a \$100 rebates through Questar Natural Gas (http://www.thermwise.com/home/UT_WY_Residential_Applications/Single%20Family%20Smart%20Thermostat.pdf)

Compatibility might make the next step easier... now you get to decide whether you are a Nest household or an ecobee3 household. As of this writing, we can find the ecobee for a slightly better price but it really is a 50/50 choice. This should be the most difficult part of the process!

3.1 WHERE TO BUY

We love supporting our local hardware stores and if you're looking for the best prices, we recommend a big-box store (e.g. Lowes, Home Depot, Costco, and Walmart) or the online equivalent (e.g. Amazon).

Nest tends to not discount their most current products (should be \$249) but you can find the occasional deal with the ecobee3 (<\$250).

After rebates, you're looking at about \$150 in total spend. Most people see a one-year or less payback and a huge bump in personal satisfaction and pride ☺ **The payback is there, so take the plunge!**

4 TIME TO INSTALL

Once you have your thermostat in hand, you can find great installation guides here:

- ecobee3 – <https://www.ecobee.com/installation/>
- Nest Learning Thermostat – <https://nest.com/thermostat/install-and-explore/>

Not working for you? There are literally hundreds of YouTube videos.

Still not working? Call that handy friend.



Worst case scenario, call a local HVAC professional.

Working? Congratulations! You just increased the comfort of your home and will start saving money immediately.

5 MULTIPLE THERMOSTATS

Both ecobee and Nest allow for multiple thermostats in a home. With the ecobee, you could save some expense with their [sensors](https://www.ecobee.com/ecobee3-wireless-remote-sensors/) (<https://www.ecobee.com/ecobee3-wireless-remote-sensors/>). Either way, your selection process is the same, just multiply the number of installations you will be doing. One quick note, most utilities limit the number of rebates they give (2 in Utah).